

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 NEA-06 IO-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 PM-03 SPC-01

DODE-00 SSO-00 DPW-01 AID-10 L-02 PRS-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

TRSE-00 /088 W

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O R 180845Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8174

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 6 SAIGON 18140

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT, OCTOBER 10-16, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUMMARY: ACTIVITY INCREASED SOMEWHAT IN MR I AS BOTH SIDES MADE SIGNIFICANT MOVES. ARVN AIRBORNE SOUGHT TO CONSOLIDATE ITS POSITIO T ALONG THE BO RIVER JUST NORTHWEST OF HUE, AND MADE SOME HEADWAY AGAINST HEAVY COMMUNIST OPPOSITION. THE NVA SUCCEEDED IN DRIVING THE RF OFF BACH MA MOUNTAIN, 40 MILES SE OF HUE. IN MR 2, THE CAMPAIGN TO RETAKE LE MINH IS MOVING SLOWLY, AS GENERAL TOAN'S IMMEDIATE GOAL IS DESTRUCTION OF THE OPPOSING ENEMY FORCE RATHER THAN THE RECAPTURE OF THE BASE PER SE. BINH DINH AUTHORITIES CLAIM TO HAVE WRESTED ALL HAMLETS IN TAM QUAN DISTRICT EAST OF ROUTE 1 FROM COMMUNIST CONTROL AND TO HAVE LARGELY CUT ENEMY RESUPPLY BY SEA. MR 3 AUTHORITIES HAVE REASSESSED THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO TAY NINH AND DECIDED THAT AN ATTACK THERE IS NOT IMMINENT, BUT ARE MAKING PRECAUTIONARY DEFENSIVE MOVES IN THE SAIGON CORRIDOR, THROUGH WHICH THEY DO FEEL AN ATTACK WILL EVENTUALLY BE MADE. MR MR 4, THE SOUTHERN DELTA REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET, REINFORCING ESTIMATES THAT VC-MR 3 IS IN THE THROES OF REORGANIZATION. THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING OCCURRED ON THE PERIPHERY OF TRI PHAP, WHERE ARVN CONTINUED TO CONSOLIDATE ITS ENCIRCLEMENT BUT HAS NOT YET TRIED TO PENETRATE INTO THE VC BASE AREA ITSELF. RANGER UNITS MADE SOME PROGRESS IN THEIR COSTLY BUT DOGGED STRUGGLE UP GIAI MOUNTAIN. IN THE FACE OF STRIDENT COMMUNIST ALLEGATIONS AND THREATS, NO DISCUSSION OF RELEVANT BUSINESS WAS POSSIBLE IN EITHER THE FPJMT OR THE TPJMC. THE PRG SEIZED ON A POWER FAILURE AS THE PRETEXT FOR BOYCOTTING THE OCTOBER 12 TPJMC MEETING AND THE LOC NINH LIAISON FLIGHT OF OCTOBER 15 WAS ABORTED BY A WRANGLE OVER EXCESSIVE PRG CARGO. THE GVN HAS REFUSED ENTRY TO THE VISA-LESS HUNGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER. A \$5.7 MILLION U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO THE ICCS PRECLUDED TERMINATION OF CONTRACTOR

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SERVICES AND EXTENSIVE ICCS WITHDRAWAL FROM REGIONS AND SUB-REGIONS.

PART I: ICCS

1. FINANCIAL RELIEF: EMBASSY PRESENTED TO ICCS OCTOBER 18 A CHECK FOR \$5,698,764, REPRESENTING THE BALANCE OF THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO THE ICCS BUDGET THROUGH THE END OF MARCH 1974. THE TWO

VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST PARTIES HAVE SO FAR REFUSED TO NEGOTIATE ON A BUDGET ADEQUATE TO SUPPORT ICCS OPERATIONS, SO THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION IS CALCULATED ON THE BASIS OF OUR SUPPORT FOR AN EVENTUAL BUDGET OF \$40 MILLION. THE U.S. CONTRIBUTION IS BEING MADE AT THIS TIME TO PRECLUDE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ANNOUNCED TERMINATION OF AIR AMERICA AND OTHER CONTRACTOR SERVICES ON WHICH ICCS OPERATIONS DEPEND. THE ICCS HAD DEVELOPED A WITHDRAWAL PLAN THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED AT THREE O'CLOCK OCTOBER 18 AND RESULTED IN MOVEMENT OF ALL ICCS PERSONNEL FROM SUB-REGIONAL SITES OR, IN SOME ICCS REGIONS, THE MOVEMENT OF ALL PERSONNEL TO SAIGON. WE UNDERSTAND THE GVN IS PREPARED IMMEDIATELY TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$2 MILLION.

2. THE HUNGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER: THE HUNGARIAN ICCS DELEGATION HAD NOTIFIED THE GVN ON OCTOBER 13 THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH MARJAI WOULD BE VISITING VIET-NAM IN HIS CAPACITY AS THE SENIOR FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF ICCS AFFAIRS. AMBASSADOR ESTERGALYOS' NOTE HAD INFORMED THE GVN THAT MARJAI WOULD ARRIVE SAIGON ON OCTOBER 16 AND WISHED TO VISIT PRG-HELD LOC NINH ON OCTOBER 18. THE GVN DETERMINED AT ONCE THAT THE PROPOSED VISIT TO LOC NINH WOULD NOT BE IN ITS INTEREST AND ON OCTOBER 16 INFORMED HUNGDEL THAT IT WOULD NOT PERMIT MARJAI TO FLY THERE FROM SAIGON. WHEN THE GVN HAD VERIFIED THAT MARJAI HAD NOT APPLIED FOR AN RVN ENTRY VISA OR A WAIVER THEREOF, IT ALSO DETERMINED TO STAND ON ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHTS AND DENY ENTRY TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT WHOSE MOST RECENT AFFRONT HAD BEEN TO PROPOSE TERMINATION OF GVN OBSERVER STATUS AT THE UN. MR. MARJAI IS PRESUMABLY STILL IN BANGKOK.

3. POLISH ROTATION: THE FIRST CHARTER FLIGHT BRINGING AN ESTIMATED 40 TO 50 MEMBERS OF THE SECOND POLISH ICCS CONTINGENT ARRIVED IN SAIGON OCTOBER 17 AND IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE WITH SIMILAR NUMBER
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OF ROTATING DELEGATION MEMBERS. TWO ADDITIONAL FLIGHTS ARE EXPECTED AT WEEKLY INTERVALS.

4. MISSING PA&E EMPLOYEES: CONGEN CAN THO HAS LEARNED THAT NONE OF THE MISSING EMPLOYEES WAS SERIOUSLY WOUNDED DURING THE AMBUSH AND ABDUCTION ON OCTOBER 6, AND THAT ALL THREE ARE APPARENTLY BEING HELD IN A VC BASE AREA IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE (SEE PART VIII, BELOW). OUR INQUIRIES IN THE FPJMT, HOWEVER, STILL FAIL TO ELICIT ANY INFORMATION FROM THE PRG. EMBASSY IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS TO OBTAIN ICCS ASSISTANCE IN GAINING THEIR RELEASE.

PART II: COMMUNIST TALK TOUGH

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8175

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

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CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 6 SAIGON 18140

LIMDIS

1. COMMUNISTS THREATEN ATTACKS ON GVN REAR BASES: CONTINUING THEIR TOUGH TALK IN THE WAKE OF ALLEGED GNV BOMBING OF VIET CONG OCCUPIED AREAS IN TAY NINH PROVINCE, THE COMMUNISTS THREATENED ON OCTOBER 15 TO ATTACK GVN "REAR BASES." THE THREAT WAS CONTAINED IN A LIBERATION RADIO COMMENTARY PEGGED TO AN ORDER ISSUED BY THE COMMUNIST MILITARY (PLAF) HIGH COMMAND, ALSO ON OCTOBER 15. SAID THE COMMENTARY, "IF THEY SEND AIRCRAFT AND ARTILLERY TO BOMB AND SHELL OUR LIBERATED AREAS, WE WILL COUNTER-ATTACK THEM IN THE SAME AREAS AND ALSO DIRECTLY ATTACK THEIR REAR BASES." HANOI'S VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY REPEATED THE THREAT IN AN ENGLISH BROADCAST ON OCTOBER 16 BUT THE PARTY NEWSPAPER, NHAN DAN, AND THE ARMY'S QUAN DOI NHAN DAN OMITTED IT FROM THEIR OCTOBER 17 EDITORIALS ON THE PLAF ORDER. (COMMENT: THE OTHER OCCASION ON WHICH THE COMMUNISTS THREATENED GVN "REAR BASES" WAS SHORTLY AFTER VNAF BOMBED THE COMMUNIST-OCCUPIED DAK TO AIRFIELD IN JULY. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE COMMUNISTS DIRECTED SPORADIC ROCKET ATTACKS AGAINST PLEIKU BUT IT WAS NEVER CLEAR IF THESE WERE INTENDED TO BE FULL RETRIBUTION FOR THE BOMBING. END COMMENT.)

2. HANOI CHARGES AIRSPACE VIOLATION: THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN CHARGED ON OCTOBER 17 THAT A US RECONNAISSANCE PLANE HAD OVERFLOWN AREAS OF THANH HOA PROVINCE DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF OCTOBER 16. THIS IS THE SECOND SUCH ALLEGATION SINCE THE JUNE 13 JOINT COMMUNIQUE.

PART III: TPJMC

1. THE RECENT INTENSIFICATION OF THE PRG/DRV CAMPAIGN OF STRIDENT ALLEGATIONS AND THREATS AGAINST THE RVN AND US HAS PRECLUDED ANY REAL DISCUSSION IN RECENT TPJMC MEETINGS. THE GVN DELEGATION, WHEN IT HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY, HAS REPLIED BY PROTESTING THE MOST BLATANT OF RECENT COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS AND LACK OF PRG COURTESY IN THE TPJMC. THE PRG FAILED TO SHOW FOR THE OCTOBER 12 CHIEFS OF DELEGATION MEETING, SUBSEQUENTLY ALLEGING THAT THE GVN HAD CUT ITS ELECTRICITY THE
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PREVIOUS NIGHT. IN FACT, TOP MEMBERS OF THE GVN DELEGATION HAD PERSONALLY OVERSEEN EMERGENCY REPAIRS DURING THE NIGHT TO ENSURE THEIR TIMELY COMPLETION. THE GVN REFUSED TO FLY SEVERAL HEAVY BOXES (SUSPECTED OF CONTAINING RICE FROM HANOI) FOR THE

PRG ON THE OCTOBER 15 SAIGON-LOC NINH LIAISON FLIGHT ON GROUNDS THAT THE HELICOPTERS WOULD HAVE BEEN OVERLOADED: THE PRG PERSONNEL REFUSED TO FLY WITHOUT THEIR CARGO. THE OCTOBER 16 CHIEFS OF DELEGATION MEETING DID TAKE PLACE, BUT NO MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION WAS POSSIBLE. THE GVN DELEGATION HAS DECIDED TO HOLD WEEKLY PRESS BRIEFINGS ON THURSDAYS, PRINCIPALLY FOR THE FOREIGN MEDIA. ATTENDANCE WILL BE BY INVITATION: DEPUTY DELEGATION CHIEF, GENERAL HIEP, WILL NORMALLY BE THE SPOKESMAN.

PART IV: FPJMT

1. THE WORK OF THE FPJMT CONTINUES TO BE STYMIED AS THE DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS UTILIZE THE FPJMT SESSIONS AS A SOUNDING-BOARD FOR INCREASINGLY BITTER AND BELLICOSE HARANGUES AGAINST ALLEGED US AND GVN VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASEFIRE. US/RVN EFFORTS TO DISCUSS CONCRETE ACTIONS SUCH AS EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON PERSONS KILLED IN ACTION, MISSING OR DIED IN CAPTIVITY ARE REBUFFED BY THE OTHER SIDE, WHICH CONTINUES TO INSIST ON THE PRIOR NEED TO REACH AGREEMENT ON MODALITIES AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 8(B).

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CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
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DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 6 SAIGON 18140

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

PART V: MR 1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 147 CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK, MAKING A DAILY AVERAGE OF 21, A SMALL INCREASE OVER LAST WEEK'S DAILY AVERAGE. GVN CASUALTIES: 74 KIA, 372 WIA; PRG/NVA: 180 KIA, 4 RETURNEES. GVN ARTILLERY FIRED 1478 ROUNDS NORTH OF HAI VAN PASS AND 7988 ROUNDS SOUTH, MAKING A TOTAL OF 9466 FOR THE WEEK, AN INCREASE OF 4057 ROUNDS OVER LAST WEEK'S FIGURE.

2. QUANG TRI - THUA THIEN:

THE TEMPO OF MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED AS BOTH THE GVN AND PRG/NVA MADE NOTABLE MOVES DURING THE WEEK. IN THE SENSITIVE AREA OF CO BI HAMLET NEAR HUE, BOTH SIDES HAD DRAWN BACK TO HIGHER GROUND DURING RECENT HEAVY RAINS. AS THE WATER RECEDED, THE 3RD REGIMENT, AIRBORNE DIVISION, MOVED IN TO CLEAR THE

ENEMY FROM THE AREA AND RETAKE SEVERAL OUTPOSTS LOST PREVIOUSLY. THE AIRBORNE TROOPS MADE SOME HEADWAY JUST WEST OF THE BO RIVER, BUT ALSO SUFFERED IN CASUALTIES: IN FOUR DAY'S FIGHTING, 17 KIA AND 118 WIA WERE REPORTED AT THE I CORPS BRIEFINGS.

3. PRG/NVA ATTACKS ON OCTOBER 11 AND 12 FORCED GVN REGIONAL FORCES (RF) UNITS FROM THEIR OUTPOST ATOP BACH MA MOUNTAIN ABOUT FORTY KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF HUE. COMMENT: BACH MA WAS NOT OCCUPIED BY GVN TROOPS WHEN THE JANUARY CEASEFIRE WAS SIGNED. SHORTLY BEFORE THE JUNE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS SIGNED, HOWEVER, RF UNITS WERE SENT TO THE MOUNTAIN. THE COMMUNISTS DENOUNCED THIS AS A CEASEFIRE VIOLATION AND INTERFERED CONTINUOUSLY WITH GVN EFFORTS TO SUPPLY THE OUTPOST. CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GVN APPARENTLY ABANDONED THE IDEA OF SECURING BACH MA WHEN A PLANNED SUPPLY ROAD COULD NOT BE COMPLETED DUE TO COMMUNIST HARASSMENT AND THE IMMINENCE OF THE RAINY SEASON. THE OUTPOST OFFERS LITTLE TACTICAL ADVANTAGE AS AN OBSERVATION POINT IN THE CURRENT RAINY SEASON BECAUSE OF POOR VISIBILITY AND THE WITHDRAWAL IS OF LITTLE IMMEDIATE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE. THERE IS, HOWEVER, SOME ADVERSE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT FROM THE RF WITHDRAWAL IN THE FACE OF COMMUNIST ATTACKS. END COMMENT.

4. QUANG NAM: NO SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

5. QUANG NGAI - QUANG TIN:

FOLLOWING A LULL DUE TO ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS, BOTH SIDES INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITIES, PRINCIPALLY IN BINH SON AND WESTERN SON TINH DISTRICTS. OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS REPORTED AT I CORPS, ABOUT SIXTY OCCURRED IN THE 2ND ARVN DIVISION AO. CASUALTIES FROM MINING INCIDENTS WERE HIGH: 12 MILITARY PERSONNEL KILLED AND 43 WOUNDED; 1 CIVILIAN KILLED AND 4 WOUNDED. IN QUANG TIN HILL 228 IN CENTRAL TIEN PHUOC DISTRICT, HELD BY A POPULAR FORCES PLATOON, WAS OVERRUN ON OCTOBER 10 AND A RANGER UNIT HAS YET TO RETAKE IT.

6. ICCS:

A. THE CONGEN LEARNED THIS PAST WEEK THAT THE ICCS TAM KY (QUANG TIN PROVINCE) SUB-REGION POLISH DELEGATION ON OCTOBER 6 MADE AN OBSERVATION IN THE TU HIEP HAMLETS OF TAM KY DISTRICT, WHICH HAD BEEN ROCKETED BY THE VC ON OCTOBER 4-5. THE DELEGATION ALSO VISITED A VICTIM IN THE HOSPITAL. ON OCTOBER 6 A PROTEST LETTER OF COMPLAINT FROM THE VILLAGERS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE GVN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TPJMC FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE ICCS.

B. THE REGION II ICCS INDONESIAN DELEGATION IS CONCERNED THAT AIR AMERICA TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES MAY BE TERMINATED OCTOBER

19 BECAUSE OF ICCS FAILURE TO PAY ITS AIR AMERICA BILLS.
AN INDONESIAN DELEGATE TOLD A CONGEN POLOFF OCTOBER 16 THAT
THE INDONESIANS HAD BEEN TOLD BY THEIR SAIGON HEADQUARTERS
TO BE PREPARED TO DEPART THE MILITARY REGION ON A MOMENT'S
NOTICE, POSSIBLY OCTOBER 18. THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS, HOWEVER,
SEEM UNCONCERNED AND CONFIDENT THAT WHAT THE HUNGARIAN DEPUTY
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DELEGATION CHIEF DESCRIBED TO A CONGEN POLOFF OCTOBER 16
AS THE "UNANIMOUS" AGREEMENT BY THE FOUR ICCS DELEGATIONS IN
SAIGON TO WITHDRAW THEIR PERSONNEL FROM THE FIELD IF AIR

AMERICA TERMINATES SERVICE WOULD PREVENT THE AIRLINE FROM TAKING
THE ACTION.

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CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 6 SAIGON 18140

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

PART VI: MR 2

1. OVERALL SITUATION: AS THE WEATHER IMPROVED, MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED AND, BY THE END OF THE WEEK, INCIDENTS TOTALLED 134, UP FROM 114 THE PREVIOUS WEEK BUT STILL LOWER THAN THE AVERAGE OF EARLIER WEEKS. AN UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBER (39) WERE REPORTED IN PLEIKU. BINH DINH AND KONTUM FOLLOWED CLOSELY WITH 37 AND 32. THERE WERE 20 IN PHU YEN, 3 IN BINH THUAN, 2 IN QUANG DUC AND 1 IN KHANH HOA. RVNAF KIA/WIA WERE UP SHARPLY FROM 39/150 TO 67/206, INCLUDING 9 ACCIDENTLY KILLED BY AN AIR STRIKE IN KONTUM ON OCT 13. COMMUNIST KIA ROSE FROM 161 TO 181. THE GVN CAPTURED 55 PERSONAL AND 10 CREW SERVED WEAPONS. OF THE 122 AIR STRIKES REPORTED, 68 WERE IN PLEIKU, 28 IN BINH DINH AND 26 IN KONTUM.

2. PLEIKU/KONTUM: THE CAMPAIGN TO RETAKE LE MINH IS MOVING SLOWLY. GENERAL TOAN TOLD THE CONSUL GENERAL AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEARNS ON OCT 12 THAT HIS MAJOR GOAL WAS TO INFLICT MAXIMUM CASUALTIES ON THE 320TH NVA DIV. TOAN SAID LE MINH MUST BE RETAKEN EVENTUALLY, BUT THAT THE MATTER WAS NOT URGENT. HE HAS NOW MOVED THE 47TH REGT AND THE 2ND BATTALION OF THE 40TH REGT FROM BINH DINH TO

PLEI BLANG III, WEST OF PLEIKU, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPERATION. THE 42ND REGT HAS RETURNED TO BINH DINH. ACTIVITY IN KONTUM CONTINUES TO CENTER AROUND HILL 727, WHERE ELEMENTS OF THE NVA 95B REGT ARE STILL ENTRENCHED. A BOMBING ERROR RESULTED IN HEAVY CASUALTIES FOR THE 44TH REGT ON OCT 13. FIELD REPORTS INDICATE 14 KIA AND 40 WIA, ALTHOUGH ONLY 9 KIA WERE BRIEFED AT HQ.

3. BINH DINH: BOTH GENERAL TOAN AND THE BINH DINH PROVINCE CHIEF REPORT THAT NO HAMLETS EAST OF QL 1 IN TAM QUAN DISTRICT ARE NOW UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL. THEY ALSO STATE THAT
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GREATLY IMPROVED PATROLLING ALONG QL 1 AND THE BEACH IN TAM QUAN, HOAI NHON, PHU MY, PHU CAT AND AN NHON HAS LARGELY HALTED THE RESUPPLY OF ENEMY TROOPS BY SEA. OUR CONSUL IN QUI NHON REPORTS THAT THE EFFORT TO CUT ENEMY SUPPLY LINES AND CONTROL THE FLOW OF COMMODITIES IS TAKING EFFECT AND THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE EXPERIENCING SHORTAGES. MILITARY ACTION IS NOT CONCENTRATED IN TAM QUAN TO THE EXTENT IT WAS EARLIER. THE WEEK SAW THE WOUNDING OF THE AN NHON DISTRICT CHIEF AND HIS S-3 IN A NIGHT-TIME MINING INCIDENT AND AN ATTACK ON THE TUY PHUOC HQ ONLY 7 KM FROM QUI NHON. QL 1, WHICH WAS CLOSED IN THE STORM LAST WEEK, IS PARTIALLY OPEN, BUT MOVEMENT IS DIFFICULT. THE COMMUNISTS ARE REPORTEDLY TARGETING BRIDGES IN PHU MY, BUT THEY HAVE YET TO STRIKE. TRAFFIC CONTINUES TO MOVE ON THE COMMUNIST ROAD FROM THE AN LAO VALLEY TO THE AN DO VALLEY, WHERE FOR THE FIRST TIME, THREE 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED. THERE ARE ALSO NEW REPORTS OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN MOVING FROM NVN TO THE AN LAO VALLEY.

4. QUANG DUC: A FORWARD HQ OF MR II HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED IN QUANG DUC TO CONTROL AN OPERATION WHICH BEGAN OCT 16 WITH THE AIM OF OPENING QL 14 TO PHUOC LONG PROVINCE IN MR III. GENERAL TOAN'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT FOR OPERATIONS (NOT THE G-3), COL NGUYEN TRONG LUAT, IS IN COMMAND. FORCES INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION ARE TWO RF BNS FROM KHANH HOA, ONE ARMORED COMPANY FROM MR II, TWO ARTILLERY PLATOONS (105MM AND 155MM), AND TWO LOCAL RF BNS. THE OPERATION IS SCHEDULED IS TO RUN FOR 10 DAYS.

5. OTHER AREAS: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN PHU YEN SEEMS TO BE CHARACTERIZED BY INCREASINGLY STRINGENT GVN ATTEMPTS TO ELIMINATE COMMUNIST ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES, AND TO SEND LONG RANGE PATROLS INTO COMMUNIST DOMINATED AREAS TO COLLECT INFORMATION ON ENEMY ACTIVITY AND STRENGTH. A RECENTLY CAPTURED DOCUMENT IN THAT PROVINCE INDICATES THAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL INCREASE THEIR EFFORTS TO TARGET GVN POLICEMEN. THE OTHER PROVINCES WERE QUIET DURING THE WEEK

AND, ALTHOUGH THE COMMUNISTS WERE OCCASIONALLY SIGHTED, LITTLE
WAS HEARD FROM THEM.

6. ICCS: THE ORGANIZATION CONTINUES ITS QUIET EXISTANCE.
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THERE IS A RUMOR IN PHAN RANG THAT THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
AS AN ECONOMY MEASURE. THE CHIEF HUNGARIAN DELEGATE IN PLEIKU
SAID THAT ASSIGNMENT OF HIS COUNTRY'S DELEGATES IS NOW FOR ONE YEAR.
REPLACEMENTS WHO ARE NOW IN TRAINING SPEND MORE THAN HALF THEIR
TIME STUDYING ENGLISH. THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION IN PLEIKU
REPORTEDLY RECEIVES WEEKLY SECURITY BRIEFING FROM PLEIKU
POLICE CHIEF AND HAS CALLED ON THE PROVINCE CHIEF.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 NEA-06 IO-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 PM-03 SPC-01

DODE-00 SSO-00 DPW-01 AID-10 L-02 PRS-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 /088 W
----- 009770

O R 180845Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8178
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR
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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART VII: MR 3

1. IN PAST SEVEN DAYS HOSTILITIES IN MR 3 SHOWED MARKED INCREASE TO 129 INCIDENTS, 57 PERCENT HIGHER THAN PRECEDING WEEK. ATTACKS BY FIRE WERE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER (150 PERCENT) WITH 470 ROUNDS FIRED BY COMMUNIST FORCES. BINH DUONG AND HAU NGHIA PROVINCES ACCOUNTED FOR 48 PERCENT OF ALL INCIDENTS REPORTED, THOUGH SKIRMISHING OCCURED IN EACH OF THE ELEVEN MR 3 PROVINCES. GVN LOSSES FOR WEEK WERE 20 KILLED (SEVEN CIVILIANS), 103 WOUNDED (15 CIVILIANS) AND 10 MISSING. ENEMY LOSSES WERE 58 KILLED AND THREE CAPTURED. ELEVEN COMMUNISTS RALLIED TO THE GVN INCLUDING THE CO OF Z 22 ARTILLERY BATTALION, 5TH NVA DIVISION.

2. TWO DAYS AGO TAY NINH PROVINCE CHIEF WAS CONVINCED NVA/VC FORCES WERE POISED FOR IMMINENT ATTACK IN POPULATED AREAS OF PROVINCE INCLUDING CAO DAI HOLY SEE, LONG HOA MARKET AND PHU KHUONG DISTRICT SEAT. INTEL HAD INDICATED RECENT COMMUNIST TROOP MOVEMENTS CLOSE TO CAPITAL, AND THERE WAS REASON TO BELIEVE NVA/VC WERE ABOUT TO RETALIATE FOR RECENT GVN BOMBING IN PRG "LIBERATED" WAR ZONE C. COL. THIEN THEREFORE PUT HIS TROOPS ON FULL ALERT AND WARNED CIVILIAN RESIDENTS TAKE PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES. U.S. REPS REPORTED ATMOSPHERE WAS TENSE WITH POPULATION OBSERVING EARLY CURFEW AND BUYING

UP FOOD SUPPLIES. HOWEVER, MR 3 CG MINH TOLD CONGEN THIS MORNING HE DOES NOT BELIEVE ATTACK IS IMMINENT, BUT DOES NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY LATER IN YEAR, PERHAPS AT HEIGHT OF RICE HARVEST. MINH VIEWS COMMUNIST STRATEGY IN TAY NINH AS DIVERSIONARY EFFORT TO GET ARVN TO COMMIT FORCES FROM OTHER AREAS IN MR 3, THUS LEAVING THEM UNPROTECTED AND VULNERABLE TO ATTACK. NEVERTHELESS, THERE IS MUCH GVN TROOP MOVEMENT AND SIGNS OF DEFENSIVE PREPARATIONS IN PROVINCES LOCATED ALONG SAIGON CORRIDOR. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ANTI-TANK BARRIERS, REINFORCEMENT
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OF BRIDGE SECURITY AND ESTABLISHMENT ADDITIONAL CONTROL POINTS HAS BEEN OBSERVED ON QL 1, QL 13 AND OTHER PRIMARY LINES OF COMMUNICATION. IT SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION MAY HAVE BEEN OVERDRAWN BECAUSE OF III CORPS MEETING LAST WEEK, ATTENDED BY TAY NINH PROVINCE CHIEF, IN WHICH BRIEFERS SPECULATED THAT NVA/VC MIGHT THINK NOW GOOD TIME LAUNCH OFFENSIVE WHILE UNITED STATES IS PREOCCUPIED WITH MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND DOMESTIC PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD DIVERT ATTENTION FROM MILITARY ACTIONS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM.

3. ICCS: IN MEETING WITH CONSUL OCTOBER 15 INDODEL EXPRESSED THEIR GROWING CONCERN OVER WHAT APPEARED TO THEM BE INCREASING SIGNS OF COMMUNIST BUILD-UP FOR MAJOR OFFENSIVE AGAINST GVN. REGION V INDODEL DEPUTY THEORIZED THAT NVA/VC WOULD ATTEMPT MAJOR ATTACK AGAINST SAIGON WITHIN NEXT FEW MONTHS, BYPASSING BOTH TAY NINH AND AN LOC. HE SAID GOI IS STUDYING DEVELOPMENTS AND WILL CONSIDER EVACUATION OF THREATENED TEAMS IF SITUATION BECOMES TOO INSECURE. INDODEL ALSO CONFIDED THAT REPORTS REACHING THEM INDICATE IRANDEL VIEW OF CEASE-FIRE SITUATION IN CONFLICT WITH THEIRS. THEY HAVE THEREFORE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM SAIGON EXERCISE CAUTION IN DISCUSSIONS WITH IRANDEL.

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CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

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PART VIII: MR 4

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) REPORTED MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR IV LAST WEEK CONTINUED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL OF INTENSITY WHICH HAS OBTAINED SINCE MID-SEPTEMBER. IV CORPS CLAIMED 242 VC/NVA-INITATED INCIDENTS DURING THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 10-17. REPORTED CASUALTIES FOR THE PERIOD INCLUDED 115 RVNAF DEAD AND 500 WOUNDED, AND 387 VC/NVA KILLED IN ACTION. SPIRITED FIGHTING CONTINUED IN KIEN PHONG AND DINH TUONG PROVINCES AND ON GIAI MOUNTAIN IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE. THE SOUTHERN DELTA REMAINED RELATIVELY QUIET, REINFORCING ARVN INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES THAT VC-MR 3 IS IN THE THROES OF REORGANIZATION.

(B) THE HEAVIEST COMBAT IN THE DELTA FLARED ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE TRI PHAP VC BASE AREA, NEAR THE JUNCTURE OF KIEN PHONG, KIEN TUONG, AND DINH TUONG PROVINCES. THE 7TH ARVN DIVISION CONTINUED TO CONSOLIDATE ITS ENCIRCLEMENT OF TRI PHAP BUT HAS MADE NO ATTEMPT TO PENETRATE THE HEART OF THE VC/NVA STRONGHOLD. THE VC EXERTED HEAVY PRESSURE ON THE KIEN PHONG SIDE OF THE AREA, COUNTERING THE EFFORTS OF TWO GVN BATTALIONS TO REESTABLISH THEMSELVES IN MY DA VILLAGE, MY AN DISTRICT, WHICH BORDERS TRI PHAP ITSELF. MY DA RECEIVED NUMEROUS SHELLINGS AND GROUND ATTACKS THROUGHOUT THE WEEK, AND MY AN DISTRICT TOWN WAS ROCKETED DURING THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 16. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG DECLINED SOMEWHAT IN INTENSITY. NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED IN THE PROVINCE ON QL-4, BUT ELEMENTS OF THE 10TH AND 12TH REGIMENTS OF THE 7TH DIVISION KILLED 16 VC IN TWO SHARP ENGAGEMENTS OCTOBER 16 JUST OFF THE HIGHWAY IN CAI LAY DISTRICT.

(C) PHONG DINH REPORTED THE ONLY INSTANCE OF TRAFFIC INTERRUPTION ON QL-4. A THREE-TRUCK VNAF CONVOY WAS AMBUSHED AT 1930 OCTOBER 16 ABOUT TWO KILOMETERS EAST OF THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTE 31. ONE TRUCK DRIVER WAS WOUNDED AND ONE TRUCK DAMAGED.

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(D) RANGER UNITS OF THE 44TH STZ MADE SOME PROGRESS LAST WEEK IN THEIR LONG BATTLE TO ROOT OUT THE NVA 101ST REGIMENT FROM GIAI MOUNTAIN, CHAU DOC PROVINCE. THE RANGERS REPORTEDLY HAVE SECURED HILL 400 ON THE WEST SLOPE OF THE MOUNTAIN AND IN A SERIES OF FIERCE, SMALL-UNIT ACTIONS ARE INCHING UP HILL 549, THEIR ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE. THE COSTS HAVE BEEN HIGH: SINCE THE OPERATION BEGAN AUGUST 20, THE RANGERS HAVE LOST 121 KILLED AND 780 WOUNDED.

(E) THE OCTOBER 14 ASSASSINATION OF THE GIONG TROM DISTRICT MILITARY SECURITY SERVICE (MSS) CHIEF, KIEN HOA PROVINCE, APPEARS TO UNDERLINE SECTOR INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT THE VC HAVE DELIBERATELY STEPPED UP TERRORIST ATTACKS ON LOCAL GVN CADRE. LOCAL AMERICAN SOURCES BELIEVE THE VC ARE SO WEAK IN THE PROVINCE THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO PROFITABLY MOUNT MILITARY OPERATIONS.

KIEN HOA REPORTED 71 INCIDENTS LAST WEEK, HALF OF THEM RESULTING FROM VIGOROUS RF SECURITY OPERATIONS.

(F) THE SOUTHERN DELTA CONTINUED RELATIVELY QUIET FOR THE FOURTH CONSECUTIVE WEEK. MILITARY ACTIVITY DECLINED IN CHUONG THIEN, ALTHOUGH THE VC HJT KIEN HUNG DISTRICT TOWN OCTOBER 10 WITH 25 MORTAR AND ROCKET ROUNDS. THE WEEK'S HEAVIEST GROUND ACTION IN THE PROVINCE TOOK PLACE OCTOBER 17 ABOUT 12 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF VI THANH WHEN THE FIRST BATTALION, 31ST REGIMENT, 21ST ARVN DIVISION ENGAGED A COMPANY-SIZED VC UNIT. THE ARVN CLAIMED 15 VC KILLED AND THE SEIZURE OF SEVERAL WEAPONS INCLUDING AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN. THE NEIGHBORING PROVINCES OF KIEN GIANG, AN XUYEN, AND BAC LIEU REMAINED QUIET LAST WEEK. BA XUYEN REPORTED 20 INCIDENTS, CONCENTRATED IN THUAN HOA AND THANH TRI DISTRICTS, BORDERING CHUONG THIEN.

2. ICCS/JMC: (A) THE INDONESIANS PLACED A TWO-MAN TEAM OCTOBER 14 IN TRI TON, CHAU DOC PROVINCE. THE TRI TON TEAM SITE HAD BEEN ABANDONED BY THE RUMP ICCS SINCE JULY 23 (CAN THO 0775).

(B) RELIABLE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES INDICATE THAT AMERICAN CITIZEN HOMER LEE ELM AND TWO FELLOW VIETNAMESE PA&E EMPLOYEES ABDUCTED OCTOBER 6 ARE BEING HELD BY THE VC IN MY PHUOC VILLAGE, THUAN HOA DISTRICT. BA XUYEN. THE CON GEN OCTOBER 17 APPRISED THE HUNGARIAN ICCS REGION VII CHAIRMAN OF OUR AWARENESS OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CAPTIVES' GENERAL LOCATION AND STATUS AND AGAIN ASKED FOR ICCS ASSISTANCE TO OBTAIN THEIR RELIEF THROUGH ICCS/PRG CONTACTS IN SAIGON (CAN THO 0777 AND 0779).

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TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI
To: SECSTATE WASHDC BANGKOK BIEN HOA BUDAPEST CAN THO CANBERRA DANANG PARIS
Type: TE
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